United Nations A/C.3/58/L.23

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
20 October 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 113
Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Benin: draft resolution

Importance of the guidance and role of parents in the care, control and development of their children

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[1]

Recalling also the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990,[2]

Recalling further the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh special session,[3]

Reaffirming the vital role played by parents in the life of their children,

Recognizing the need for policies that support and reinforce the conditions that facilitate the effective exercise of the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents, legal guardians and other care givers,

Recognizing also that a considerable number of children live without parental support, such as orphans, street children, internally displaced and refugee children and children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation,

Aware that families are affected by social and economic changes manifested as observable worldwide trends and that the causes and consequences of those trends concerning families life directly affect children,

[1] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[2] A/45/625, annex.
[3] See resolution 55/2.

03-57105 (E) 211003

Reaffirming the resolve of heads of State and Government, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] to develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work,

Recalling that Member States resolved in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to ensure that, by the year 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Concerned that the practice of early initiation of sex and sexual partnership among children constitutes, frequently, the basis for adverse and serious consequences, including, inter alia, stigmatization and violence against girls, which result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to and serious crimes such as murder, rape and early and forced pregnancy against them,

Gravely concerned that drug problems, despite increasing efforts by States, relevant international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, are still a challenge of global dimension which constitutes a serious threat to the health, safety and well-being of all mankind, in particular young people,

Noting with grave concern the rapid and widespread increase, and the involvement of minors, in the illicit production of, trafficking in and consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including amphetamine-type stimulants and other sorts of synthetic drugs, as well as in the number of children and young people starting to use drugs at an earlier age and having access to substances not previously used,

Aware that the well-being of children is of vital importance to all people of all nations,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the United Nations summits and conferences of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

1. *Recognizes* the unique duty and ability of parents to guide children properly, raise them in a healthy environment, impart to them a sense of duty, integrity, responsibility, civic-mindedness, compassion and service towards others, to help strengthen families, communities and nations of the world;

2. *Encourages* parents and legal guardians to the best of their ability to instil confidence and a sense of purpose in their children to draw out their talents and abilities and to encourage them to reach their full potential;

3. *Encourages* parents to remain aware of the need for gender equality in raising their children, so to ensure a just and equitable world for girls;

4. *Reaffirms* the respect for the liberty of parents, and when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own conviction;

5. *Invites* parents and legal guardians with first responsibility for children and Governments to fight against traffic in children, their prostitution and their enrolment as soldiers in conflict;

6. *Recognizes* that Governments bear an important responsibility for the welfare and development of all children, particularly dependent, abandoned or neglected children, which includes the provision of excellent schools and educational programmes that leave no child behind;

7. *Urges* all Governments to increase support and protection to parents through the provision of safety nets and social protection measures to enable them to better care for their families;

8. *Calls* for special measures to support the considerable number of children who live without parental support and those who are rescued from trafficking;

9. *Invites* all Governments to disseminate relevant information, including outcome documents of summits and conferences related to the well-being of children, in order to raise parents' awareness and to help improve parenting practices;

10. *Decides* that 6 February each year shall be recognized as Parents Day, calls this observance to the attention of the citizens of all nations, and encourages parents to maintain focus on doing even better for their children and to rededicate themselves to providing them the greatest magnitude of love and support they need to become happy, healthy and productive citizens of our communities, nations and the world;

11. *Encourages* all Governments, communities, citizens, religious, academic, media, cultural and civic leaders to recognize Parents Day through proclamations, activities and educational efforts in furtherance of recognizing, raising and supporting the central role of parents in creating better societies, for now and the future;

12. *Decides* to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family" a sub-item entitled "Parents";

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on social groups, to devote attention to the implementation of the present resolution.